

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary _ Public

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Israel

Post: Tel Aviv

Food Safety – Heavy Metals in Foodstuffs

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

The Israeli Ministry of Health has increased monitoring on imported food products in recent months. In order to ensure that importers and exporters are aware of the latest Israeli regulations affecting imports of foodstuff, FAS Tel Aviv is sharing in this report the Israeli National Food Control Service's, part of the Ministry of Health, 2009 updated regulation setting the limits for various heavy metals in foodstuff. Exporters and importers should check that the level in the exported food does not exceed that which is permitted by this regulation.

Food Laws: Limits for various heavy metals in foodstuff

| | ppm | | | | |
|---|------|---------|---------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | Lead | Cadmium | Mercury | Arsenic (Non-Organic) | Arsenic** |
| Milk | 0.02 | 0.005 | 0.01 | 0.012 | 1.0 |
| Milk products | 0.2 | 0.05 | 0.1 | 0.12 | 1.0 |
| Oils and fats and fat emulsions (oil-in-water type) | 0.1 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.1 | 1.0 |
| Fruits and vegetables (excluding the items that are mentioned below) | 0.1 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 1.0 |
| Cabbages | 0.3 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 1.0 |
| Leaf vegetables, celery, mushrooms, edible plants, and herbs | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 1.0 |
| Dried leaf vegetables, celery, mushrooms, edible plants, and herbs | 1.5 | 1.0 | 0.15 | 0.3 | 5.0 |
| Root vegetables, stem, bulb | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 1.0 |
| Pulses (dried) (excluding the items that are mentioned below) | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.03 | 0.12 | 1.0 |
| Peanuts and soybeans | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.03 | 0.12 | 1.0 |
| Small berries | 0.2 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 1.0 |
| Fresh seaweed/alga | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Dried seaweed/alga | 5.0 | 5.0 | 2.5 | 1.0 | 5.0 |
| Cocoa powder | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Cereal & Its products (excluding the items that are mentioned below) | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.03 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Wheat | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.03 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Rice | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.03 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Oily seeds | 2.0 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Meat & Its products, including poultry and hunting (excluding the items that are mentioned below) | 0.1 | 0.05 | 0.2 | 0.02 | 1.0 |
| Beef, sheep, goats and chicken offals (excluding the items that are mentioned below) | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.0 |
| Chicken liver | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Turkey liver | 0.5 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Beef, goat and sheep kidneys | 0.5 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.0 |
| Fish & Its products (excluding the items that are mentioned below) | 0.3 | 0.05 | 0.5* | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Tuna, anchovy, sardine, swordfish, shark and other carnivorous fish | 0.4 | 0.3 | 1.0* | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Sea food | 1.0 | 2.0 | 0.5* | 1.0 | 1.0 |

| | | | | | |
|---|------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| Eggs and egg powder | 0.1 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Sugar | 0.5 | 0.14 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Salt | 2.0 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Infant/baby formulas (ready to eat) | 0.02 | 0.0056 | 0.004 | 0.012 | 1.0 |
| Infant /baby formulas (in powder) | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.015 | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Infant/baby porridge (ready to eat) | 0.04 | 0.012 | 0.008 | 0.024 | 1.0 |
| Infant/baby porridge (in powder) | 0.08 | 0.02 | 0.015 | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Dietary supplement (excluding the items that are mentioned below) | 3.0 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 2.0 |
| Dietary supplement made mainly from dried seaweed & Its products | 3.0 | 3.0 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 5.0 |
| Beverages (excluding dairy products and the items that are mentioned below) | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.1 | 1.0 |
| Bottled water and mineral water | 0.01 | 0.003 | 0.001 | 0.006 | 0.01 |
| Fruit and vegetable juices | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.2 | 1.0 |
| Nectars | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.2 | 1.0 |
| Raw tea | 5.0 | 0.1 | 0.05 | 0.1 | 1.0 |
| Ready to drink tea | 0.5 | 0.01 | 0.005 | 0.1 | 1.0 |
| Alcoholic beverages (no more than 2% alcohol) | 0.2 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.1 | 1.0 |
| | | | | | |

* Percentage of methylmercury

** If the total arsenic (organic arsenic and non-organic arsenic) exceeds the value listed in the table, please check the maximum concentration of the non-organic arsenic.

Analysis method is according to the latest edition of “Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists International”.